

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A support structure assembly for an escalator comprising:

a bottom landing support;

a top landing support; and

a rise for interconnecting said bottom landing support to said top landing support wherein said rise includes at least one module wherein the module comprises a steel sheet covering an escalator machine, said steel sheet having a top edge, a bottom edge and two side edges extending between said top edge and said bottom edge, respectively, said steel sheet presenting a continuous, unbroken and generally planar exterior surface from said top edge to said bottom edge and between said side edges.

14. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the steel sheet module is welded to other portions of the rise along edges of said steel sheet such that said module ~~completely~~ encloses extends along said rise a distance sufficient to cover the entire escalator machine.

19. (Currently Amended) A support structure assembly for an escalator comprising:

a bottom landing;

a top landing; and

a rise for interconnecting said bottom and top landings, said rise comprising a plurality of support sub-modules formed from stamped steel sections wherein one of said support sub-modules includes a steel plate having a top edge, a bottom edge and two side edges extending between said top edge and said bottom edge, respectively, said steel sheet presenting a continuous, unbroken and generally planar exterior surface from said top edge to said bottom edge and between said side edges for ~~enclosing~~ covering an escalator drive machine.

20. (Currently Amended) An assembly as recited in claim 19 wherein ~~said steel plate includes a first one of said side edges is attached to a first support sub-module and a second one of said side edges is attached to a second support sub-module wherein said second edge is laterally spaced from said first edge such that said steel plate presents an unbroken exterior surface extending from said first edge to said second edge.~~

21. (Currently Amended) An assembly as recited in claim 20 wherein said steel plate ~~completely encloses the escalator drive machine within said rise~~ extends along said rise a distance sufficient to cover the entire escalator machine.

22. (Previously Presented) An assembly as recited in claim 20 wherein said steel plate is welded along said first and second edges to connect said steel plate to said first and second sub-modules.

23. (Previously Presented) An assembly as recited in claim 20 wherein each of said support sub-modules is attached to adjacent support sub-modules forming a rigid framework for completely supporting said top landing, said bottom landing, and said rise.